

vote in the Senate on the Flag Protection Amendment.

As many of my colleagues know, the Senate failed to pass the amendment by the necessary two-thirds majority, which would have sent the amendment to the States for ratification. The House had earlier passed this amendment by more than the required majority.

Following the vote, the American Legion national commander issued a profound statement expressing his organization's disappointment with the vote. I would like to include a copy of National Commander Alan G. Lance Sr.'s remarks for the RECORD, because I believe it summarizes the frustration felt by many of our veterans with the Senate's continued failure to approve this amendment.

WASHINGTON, D.C. (March 29, 2000).—After 11 years and countless resolutions and bills, letters, phone calls, meetings, rallies, and speeches, it is with deep disappointment that we stand here today and witness the defeat of Senate Joint Resolution 14, the Flag Protection Amendment.

This vote represents a quantum shift in the balance of power that makes our democracy the envy of the world. The individual flag-burner is not nearly as much of a threat to our democracy as the belief, held by a minority of senators, that an amendment supported by 49 states and a poll-validated super-majority of the American people is somehow invalid.

What some senators fear, more than an amendment to protect the flag from acts of physical desecration, is that the American people will take control of their government. Such resistance to the will of the people will leave the people no other alternative but to convene a constitutional convention, which The American Legion would not advocate.

For 11 years, we have come to this place. We have told our stories about the Flag—how it led us into battle, how it comforted us in faraway lands, how it embraced our fallen brothers and sisters, how it marked the resting place of heroes, how it led us home with parades and pageantry, how it represents more than cloth and colors.

For 11 years, we have represented tens of millions of Americans, serving as a megaphone for a simple, sweeping, and united call to protect the Flag.

For 11 years, we have tried to break the stranglehold of a minority that has flouted the will of an entire nation, its states and their people.

Today, we have lost this battle, and I must admit that I fear we are losing much more. Could it be that "we the people" and the states are losing control of our democratic republic?

The very idea of representative democracy presupposes that elected officials follow the will of the people. Senators have told us that calls, letters, and emails poured into their offices in support of this amendment. I was even told that calls were 100 percent in favor of the amendment in some offices.

If the Senate refuses to follow the will of the people on an issue so clear-cut, so broadly supported as the Flag Protection Amendment, then is this really a republic? Is this really our government?

In the aftermath of this vote, I am not sure how to answer those questions. It is little wonder why so many people are flocking to third parties or opting out of the political process altogether.

In spite of all of this, I have not lost all hope. A new day and a new Congress await us

in the not-too-distant future. And people like Senator Hatch and Senator Cleland who with many others will continue to stand with us. They have my deepest appreciation and respect for their steadfast support and brave bipartisan leadership on this issue.

Perhaps this defeat will serve as a wake-up call for America. Perhaps it will inspire us to fight harder. Perhaps it will prompt us to remind our senators—in a not-so subtle way—that they work for us, not us for them.

I refuse to believe that fighting this battle was in vain. We have learned; we have grown; we have rallied a nation. And so, we will not stand down. We will not go away.

We will not surrender. We will continue this struggle until our federal government is put back into balance, and the people's prerogative honored.

HONORING KURTH COTTAGE OF VALLEY HOSPITAL IN RIDGEWOOD, NEW JERSEY

HON. MARGE ROUKEMA

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2000

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Kurth Cottage of Valley Hospital in Ridgewood, New Jersey on its 50th anniversary of service to the hospital and surrounding community.

Kurth Cottage is the gift shop and restaurant/tea room at Valley Hospital. It once was an actual cottage, however, and the rooms it occupies in the hospital building today have been renovated to closely resemble the lovely surroundings of the original cottage.

Valley Hospital has put so much effort into what might otherwise be a simple, utilitarian facility because of extra level of comfort that warm, friendly surroundings can bring to patients' families. Family members visiting seriously ill relatives have many worries on their minds. A good meal in comforting surroundings can help ease those worries and make their outlook more optimistic. A positive outlook among family can, in turn, offer encouragement to patients themselves as they face recovery from surgery or illness.

Kurth Cottage has its origins in 1948, when the Women's Auxiliary of Valley Hospital decided that the hospital, which was still under construction, should have a "small gift shop and snack bar." Rather than include the shop and snack bar in the hospital building, a small house on the hospital grounds was chosen as its site and named for Mr. and Mrs. Wilfred Kurth, major benefactors of the project. The cottage opened for business May 1, 1950, five months ahead of the opening of the hospital itself.

Kurth Cottage proved to be much more than the typical stainless steel and Formica hospital snack bar. The cottage included an 18-seat Snack Bar, a 40-seat Tea Room and a 28-seat Fireside Room, which also included the gift shop.

The Kurth Cottage facility became part of the main hospital during a 1963 expansion and the original cottage, unfortunately, was demolished to make room for a parking lot in 1963. The new facilities included a beautifully

appointed, Williamsburg-influenced Tea Room, Snack Bar and Gift Shop, a new kitchen and a gracious Fireside Room incorporating many features of the original. Furnishings included Mrs. Kurth's Victorian sofa, chairs, a drop-leaf table, fireplace andirons and white birch fireplace logs. Fresh flowers in the Tea Room were donated twice weekly by local florists, as they still are today.

The cottage underwent major renovations in 1990, adding a Colonial blue color scheme to the woodwork, new wallpaper, swag draperies, new tables and chairs and handsome new flooring. The china has matching blue borders and volunteers wear matching blue smocks. A canopied walkway leads to the entrance of the facility and a new waiting area has been designed around the former Fireside Room.

Throughout its history, Kurth Cottage has always been a profitable enterprise, helping fund the many charitable activities of the Ladies Auxiliary.

None of this success would have been possible, of course, without the untiring dedication of the hundreds of volunteers who have served over the past half-century. These women have done more than simply run a "snack bar." They have made the emotional trauma of injury and illness more bearable for the families of patients at Valley Hospital for decades. They deserve our deepest gratitude for all they have done to lighten the burdens of patients and families. Most especially, we bow in deepest admiration and respect for the many volunteers who have given of themselves, both in time and personal dedication.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Kurth Cottage on its 50th anniversary and thanking everyone involved with its success for their hard work.

HONORING THE ILLINOIS EDUCATORS

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2000

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, today I commend the 2000 Golden Apple Scholar award winners from my district. The Golden Apple Scholars program is to recruit talented high school juniors who want to become teachers.

I would like to take the opportunity to recognize Mr. Curtis Carpenter from Centralia High School in Centralia, Illinois. Teachers, like parents, have a unique opportunity—to touch the life of a child. I can't think of a more rewarding experience.

As you know, Mr. Speaker, I was a former high school teacher. I want to wish Curtis all the same joy and success that I shared in my teaching career.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2000

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, on March 29, 2000, I missed six recorded votes because I